

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Macedonia e-procurement goes "live"

# U.S. supported e-procurement system expected to increase transparency, save taxpayers money

April 12, 2006: In a first for Macedonia, the City of Skopje and Municipality of Veles have posted public tenders on the internet using a new e-procurement system developed with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

The recently-launched web-based application <a href="https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk">https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk</a> is designed to help public institutions save money and time, and to improve the level of transparency in the public procurement process.

"The e-procurement system offers a secure, efficient and transparent environment, and an opportunity to significantly improve the way public institutions do business in Macedonia," said Dick Goldman, USAID Mission Director.

The application, developed in cooperation with the City of Skopje, is supported by the Public Procurement Bureau. While the system will be available to all public institutions and municipalities throughout the country, the City of Skopje, Municipalities of Karpos and Veles, and the Service for General and Common Affairs will be the first to use the system.

"By using the new e-procurement system, bidders will be able to submit bids via the Internet. Newlyopened bids will be accessible to all potential bidders at the same time, and the evaluations will be conducted electronically. While bidders are able to attend the public opening, they may choose to view the openings from their own office via the Internet," according to Jerker Torngren, the USAID e-Gov Project Chief of Party.

While the system is designed to maintain transparency throughout the entire process, public institutions and vendors will also benefit from the ability to complete trade deals faster and without unnecessary paper work. It is also expected that with the increase in competition, public institutions will be able make significant savings of taxpayers' money.

Vendors are encouraged to visit the site <a href="https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk">https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk</a> regularly for information on new tenders. Representatives of public institutions interested in using the system should contact the Public Procurement Bureau.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are

designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <a href="http://macedonia.usaid.gov">http://macedonia.usaid.gov</a>

The development of this software is a result of the USAID funded e-Gov Project <a href="www.e-Gov.org.mk">www.e-Gov.org.mk</a> which aims to help the Republic of Macedonia increase the efficiently and transparency of public sector management as well as open new channels for doing business and providing services to Macedonian citizens.